



## **Tennessee Regulatory Authority**

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**For Release:** August 26, 2002

### **TRA to Endorse BellSouth's Tennessee Long Distance Request to the FCC**

**Nashville, Tennessee** – At a specially scheduled conference today, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) unanimously voted to recommend to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval of BellSouth's "271" application to provide long distance service in Tennessee. The recommendation now goes to the FCC for final approval.

Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 establishes a 14-point checklist of requirements that BellSouth and other Regional Bell Operating Companies must comply with before being granted the authority to offer long distance service.

The items on the list identify the features and functions BellSouth must offer to competitors wishing to offer local telecommunications services, and is a demonstration that competitive carriers have non-discriminatory access to the BellSouth telecommunications network.

At the conclusion of today's deliberations and after reviewing each of the 14 requirements, the Directors agreed that BellSouth is in full compliance with the requirements established in the Federal Telecommunications Act and expressed their intention to provide a favorable endorsement to the FCC of BellSouth's readiness to offer long distance service in Tennessee.

The FCC recently gave BellSouth the green light to offer long distance service in Georgia and Louisiana. The company has applications to offer long distance service pending in Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi.

The 14-point checklist includes such features and functions as allowing competitors to interconnect to BellSouth's elaborate telecommunications network; have access to its Directory Assistance, 9-1-1 and Operator Services, and requires BellSouth to provide White Pages listings for customers of competitive carriers, among other items.

The TRA's Directors also agreed to identify and implement safeguards to ensure that BellSouth maintains its current level of compliance with the items on the checklist.

If approved by the FCC, BellSouth would be allowed to market its telecommunications services across most of Tennessee.

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